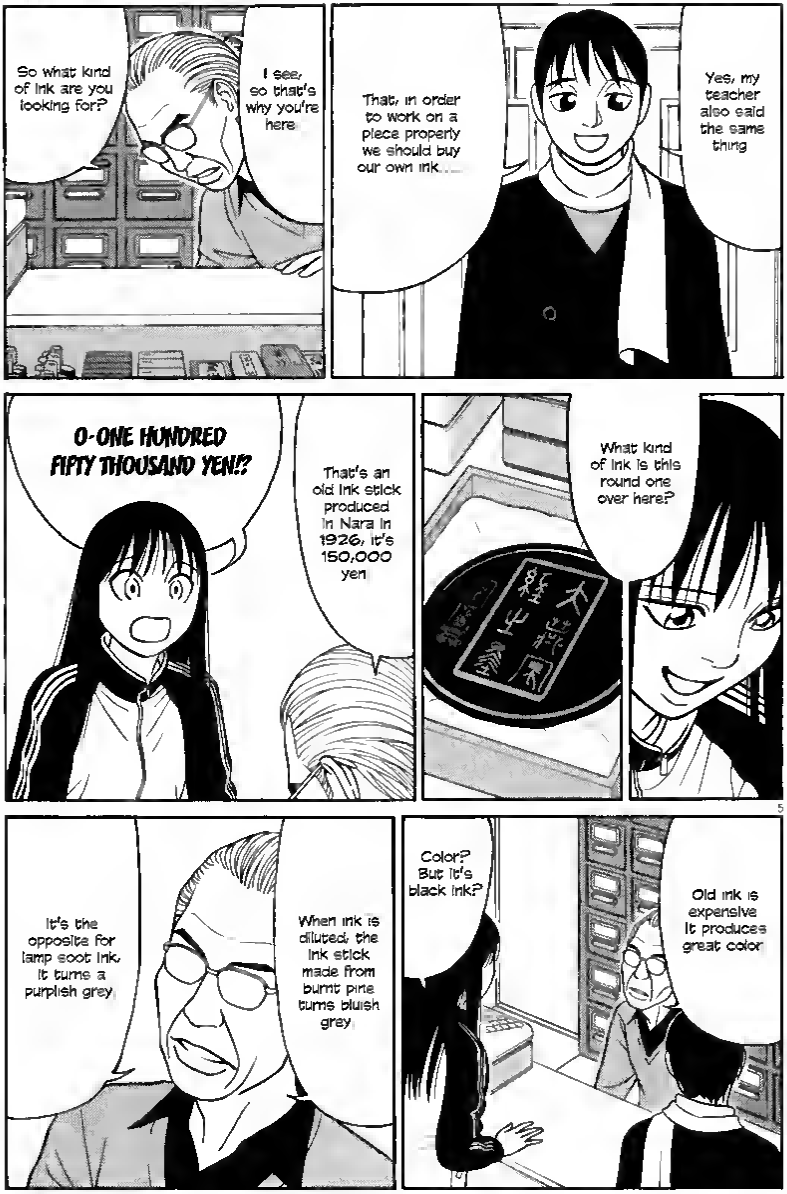
Chapter 61

A true veteran

Kamakura station
WAAH!
ワホ
ワホワホ
ワホワホ
!
Sorry, sorry, did you wait long?
When he saw you, he just dashed straight for you, Oe-kun
I wonder if Peace really likes me...?

ガラン ガラン
Hello--
I wonder if the goat will eat it?
Sir, I brought some white clover grass.
Oh? Welcome.
You don't say?
I also brought along someone that might become its new friend
Really? That's great
メエエエ
Yeah, it loves clovers.

What a peculiar dog
That dog isn't even remotely scared of Shiro
メエエエ
フホ フホ
We're here to buy ink.
Not the liquid kind, but the solid type that you have to scrape...
By the way, what are you buying today?
What you're referring to as liquid is actually India ink okay?
What are you talking about? I wouldn't call it ink unless it's the type you scrape on an inkstone
Primarily, India ink is used for practicing
However to work on a piece properly you must use scraped ink


So what kind of ink are you looking for?
I see, so that's why you're here
That, in order to work on a piece properly we should buy our own ink.....
Yes, my teacher also said the same thing
0-ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND YEN!?
That's an old ink stick produced in Nara in 1926, it's 150,000 yen
What kind of ink is this round one over here?
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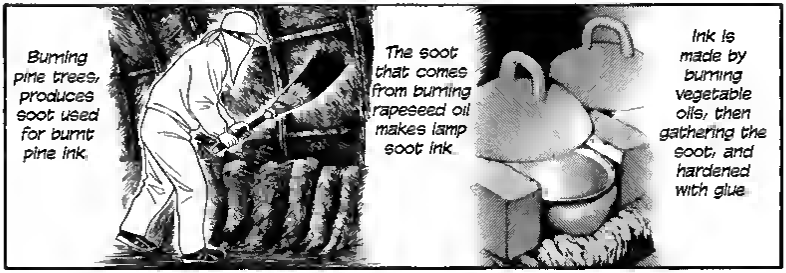
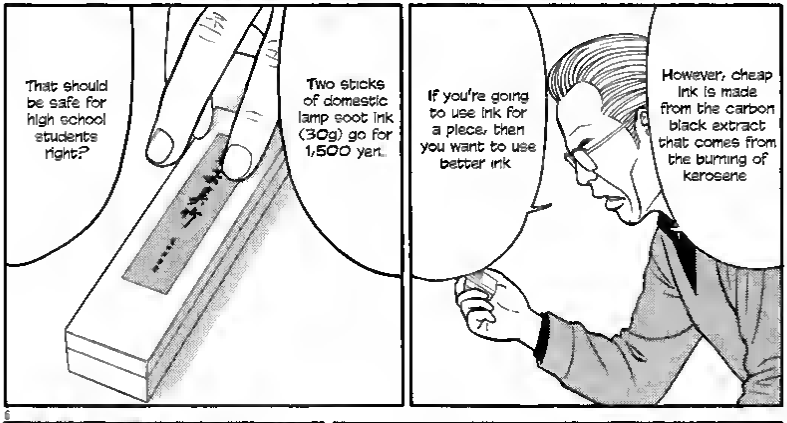
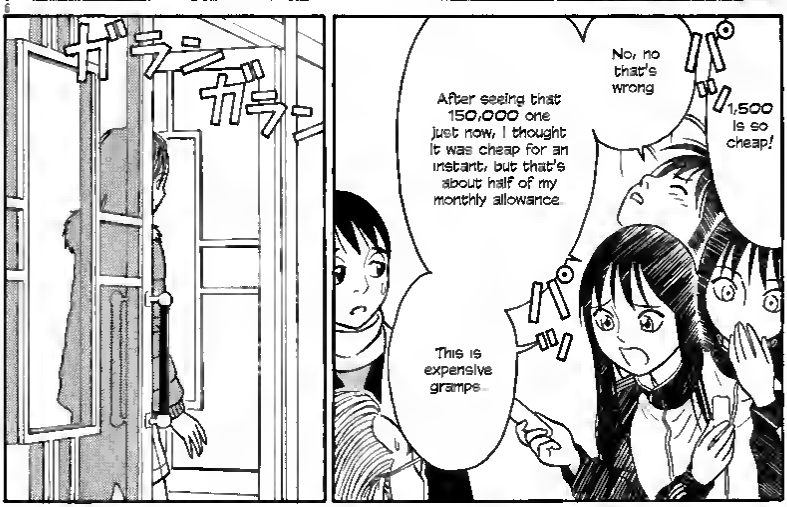
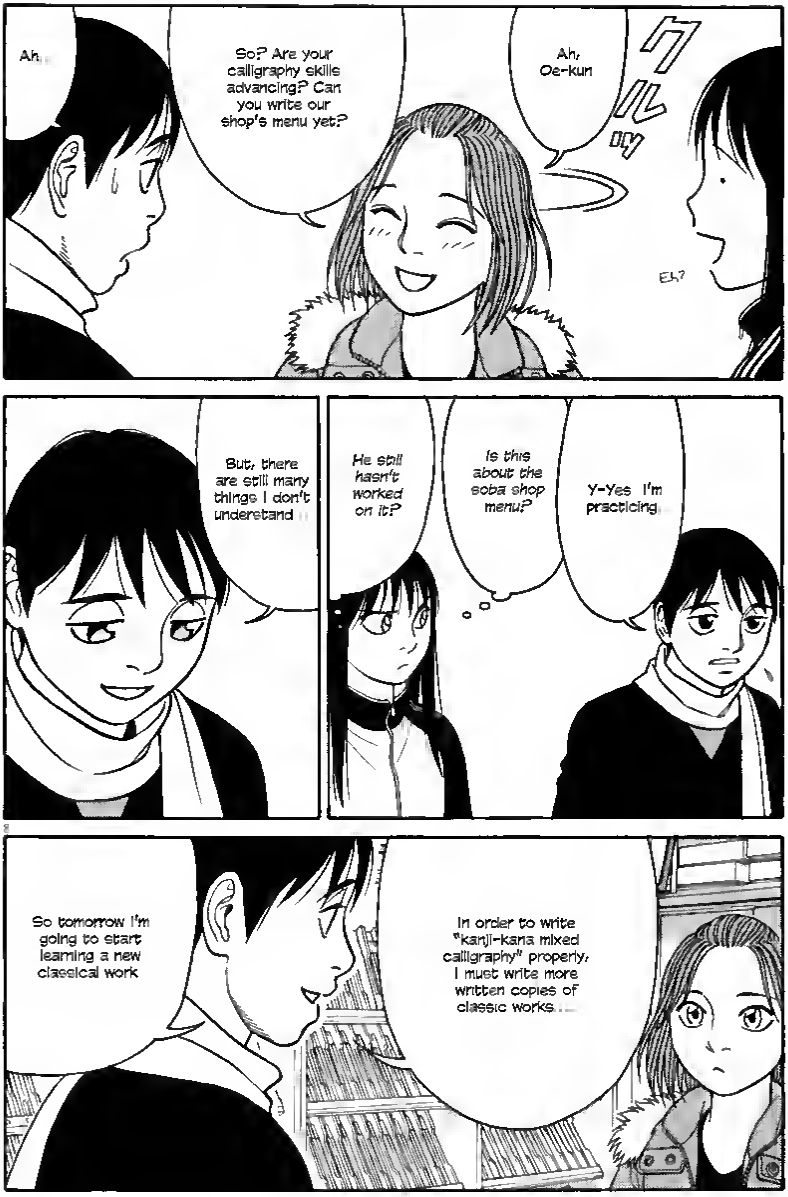
It's the opposite for lamp soot ink, it turns a purplish grey
When ink is diluted, the ink stick made from burnt pine turns bluish grey
Color? But it's black ink?
Old ink is expensive It produces great color


Burning pine trees, produces soot used for burnt pine ink.
The soot that comes from burning rapeseed oil makes lamp soot ink.
Ink is made by burning vegetable oils, then gathering the soot, and hardened with glue.

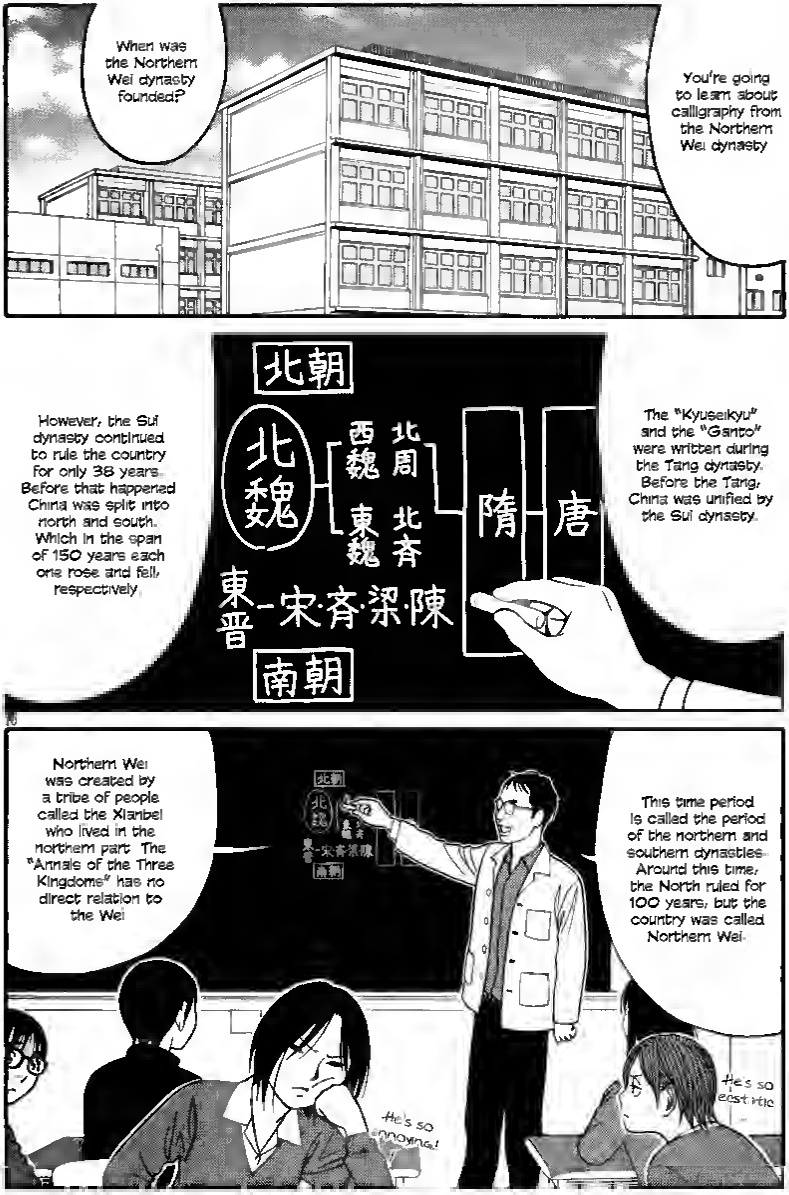

That should be safe for high school students right?
Two sticks of domestic lamp soot ink (30g) go for 1,500 yen.
If you're going to use ink for a piece, then you want to use better ink
However, cheap ink is made from the carbon black extract that comes from the burning of kerosene


ガラン ガラン
No, no that's wrong
1,500 is so cheap!
After seeing that 150,000 one just now, I thought it was cheap for an instant, but that's about half of my monthly allowance.
This is expensive grampe.

!
Welcome
ガラン ガラ
Oh?
How are you doing Miyata-san?
I-I'm doing well
It's been a while-- How's it going--?
Oh my-- To think we'd run into each other in such a place
We only come here when we need to buy new calligraphy stuff
It's not like that
Huh?
You sure are close
Oh are the two of you shopping on a Sunday?


Ah...
So? Are your calligraphy skills advancing? Can you write our shop's menu yet?
Ah, Oe-kun
クルッ
Eh?
But, there are still many things I don't understand...
He still hasn't worked on it?
Is this about the soba shop menu?
Y-Yes I'm practicing...
So tomorrow I'm going to start learning a new classical work
In order to write "kanji-kana mixed calligraphy" properly, I must write more written copies of classic works...

Jeez, you're so diligent!
You should just work on our menu here and there
Hey, Pesce, don't be naughty!
W-What's wrong?
Whoa, P-Pesce!
ワホ
Huh?
Seems like Pesce-chan is a rather clever dog, huh
Somehow, it's like this dog is trying to separate me and Oe-kun


When was the Northern Wei dynasty founded?
You're going to learn about calligraphy from the Northern Wei dynasty
北朝
北魏
西魏
北周
東魏
北斉
隋
唐
東晋
宋
斉
梁
陳
南朝
However, the Sui dynasty continued to rule the country for only 38 years. Before that happened China was split into north and south. Which in the span of 150 years each one rose and fell, respectively.
The "Kyuseikyu" and the "Ganpo" were written during the Tang dynasty. Before the Tang, China was unified by the Sui dynasty.
Northern Wei was created by a tribe of people called the Xianbei who lived in the northern part. The "Annals of the Three Kingdoms" has no direct relation to the Wei.
This time period is called the period of the northern and southern dynasties. Around this time, the North ruled for 100 years, but the country was called Northern Wei.
He's so annoying!
He's so egotistic

Now then, Buddhism was very prosperous in Northern Wei, the Mogao caves in Dunhuang, the Yungang grottoes, and the Longmen grottoes are places where many Buddhist statues were carved out of stone

The statues in the Yungang grottoes have scary eyes.

Also, next to those Buddhist statues, when they held a memorial service for someone, they carved out "zozoki" (records) text on those statues

From those records excellent calligraphy-like works were born

This is one of those works, the "Gyuketsu Zozoki". One of the greatest masterpieces of the Northen Wei standard style

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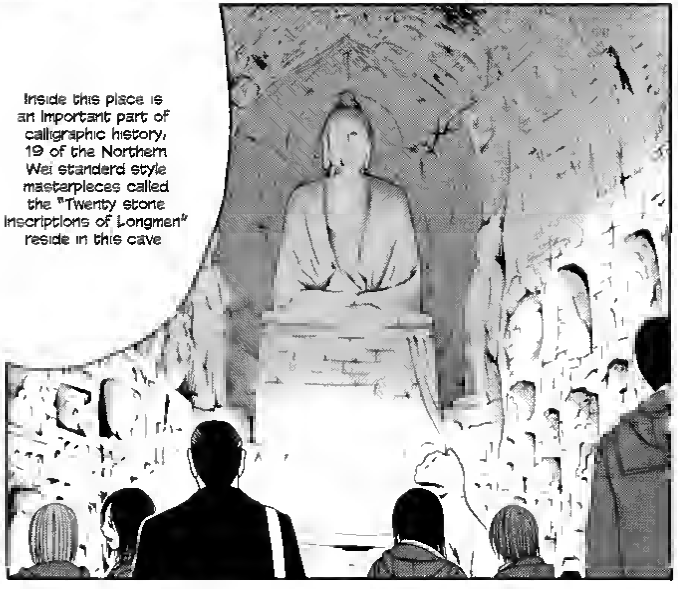
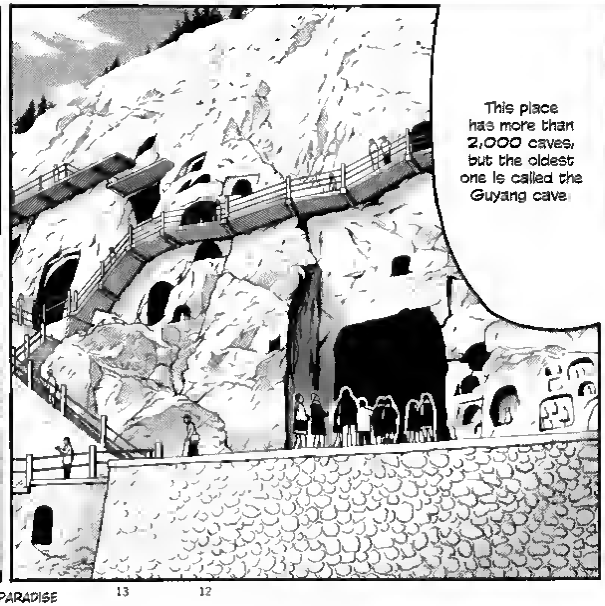
Well, let's leave the explanation there and get to writing

But, before we do so, we have to scrape ink. Did you guys buy your own ink?

Yes

※ REFERENCES, "THE ILLUSTRATION OF THE HISTORY OF CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY" QUARTERLY INK SPECIAL ISSUE 9 (©FUJITSU NEWSPAPER COMPANY)


Inside this place is an important part of calligraphic history, 19 of the Northern Wei standerd style masterpieces called the "Twenty stone inscriptions of Longmen" reside in this cave

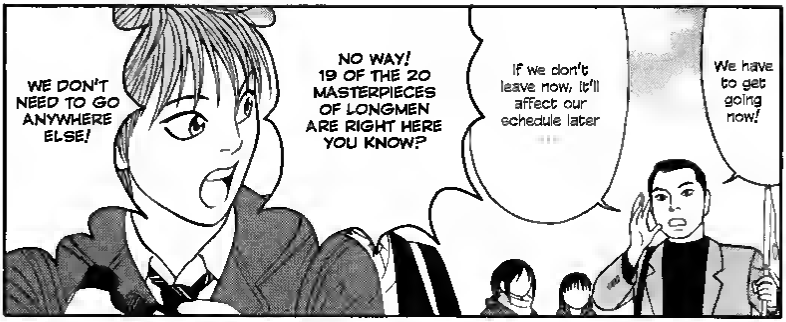


※ PICTURE COLLABORATION (P176-177 TOP)/SANHAO HEYI'S PICTURE COLLECTION "FOUR THOUSAND YEAR PARADISE CHINA WORLD INHERITENCE" (SHOGAKUKAN) BIBLIOGRAPHY/ "SUMI EXTRA ISSUE #2 CHINESE CALLIGRAPHY TRIP" (ART NEWSPAPER COMPANY)

OOH-- I KNOW, I KNOW!
IS THAT THE "SHIHEIKOU ZOZOKI"?
THERE IT IS!
WOW!
14
To the upper left of it is..
--Which means as I recall..
!
FOUND IT! THE "GYUKETSU ZOZOKI"!

YOU'RE BEING A NUISANCE MAKING ALL THAT NOISE!
DARN IT! ICHIJO WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING!?
15
THE ORIGINAL STONE MONUMENT THAT HAS THE "GYUKETSU", THE "SHINHEIKO", AND THE "SONSHUSEI" THAT I'VE USED MANY TIMES TO WRITE WRITTEN COPIES BACK IN JAPAN IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!
BUT, IT'S THE REAL THING!
IT'S MORE UNREASONABLE TO SAY DON'T GET EXCITED!

※ THE "SHINHEIKO-ZOZOKI", "SONSHUSEI-ZOZOKI", AND "GYUKETSU-ZOZOKI" AS WELL ARE EPITAPHS LOCATED IN THE GUYANG CAVE. THEY ARE ALL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWENTY MASTERPIECES IN THE LONGMEN CAVES


WE DON'T NEED TO GO ANYWHERE ELSE!
NO WAY! 19 OF THE 20 MASTERPIECES OF LONGMEN ARE RIGHT HERE YOU KNOW?
If we don't leave now, it'll affect our schedule later
We have to get going now!

EVERYONE OF OITA'S BUNGO HIGH SCHOOL! PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM IF WE DON'T GO AS PLANNED!
HOLD IT! DON'T DO ANYTHING RECKLESS INSIDE A WORLD HERITAGE SITE!
BUT IT'S SO FAR BACK. HASEGAWA CARRY ME ON YOUR SHOULDERS!

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Bungo High School in the Oita prefecture National winners of the Kosimen of calligraphy

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

五

とめはねっ！

鈴里高校書道部

Hobo-1

河合克敏

KATSUTOSHI KAWAI PRESENTS